

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated May 4, 2005, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 16, 18 and 19. The allowance of claims 5, 7, 9 and 13-15 is noted with appreciation.

Claims 16, 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103, on the grounds that they were considered to be unpatentable over the Toyofuku patent in view of the newly-cited Togano reference (JP 09-098314). To clarify the distinctiveness of the subject matter set forth in these claims, claim 16 has been amended to more explicitly recite the patentable features as identified in the first two paragraphs on page 5 of the Office Action. Thus, as amended, claim 16 recites that, if the stored state value indicates that display of a captured image is requested when the power supply to the camera is started, the taking lens is automatically driven to a position where an in-focus condition is substantially obtained for distant to close-range views. The claim further recites that, after the taking lens has reached this focus position, the display of an image taken through the taking lens is automatically started. Based upon the indications of allowable subject matter set forth in the Office Action, it is respectfully submitted that claim 16, and its dependent claims 18 and 19, are allowable over the cited references.

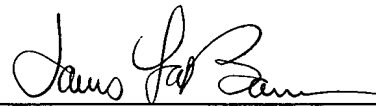
Accompanying this Response is an Information Disclosure Statement forwarding copies of a Notification of Reasons for Refusal (i.e., an Office Action) received in the counterpart Japanese application, and the references cited therein. U.S. patent equivalents for two of those references are also being submitted.

Favorable consideration of the claims in view of these references is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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